

REMARKS

Claims 22-26 and new claim 29 are presented. Claims 1-21 and 27-28 have been canceled with neither prejudice nor disclaimer. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 22-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Office Action page 5, paragraph no. 6. Accordingly, amended claim 22 adapts language from former claim 20 in view of the specification, such as pages 7-8. Amended claim 25 reflects linguistic editing for readability in an effort to employ more conventional U.S. claim format, while being consistent with the claim as previously presented and the specification, such as original claims 16 and 17. Amended claim 26 reflects linguistic editing for readability consistent with the claim as previously presented and the specification, such as pages 15-16. New claim 29 is based on canceled 21 and depends on amended claim 22.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter this Amendment. The total number of claims has been reduced. As amended claim 22 is as an independent claim that is believed to be allowable for reasons stated above. The amendments to claims 25 and 26 are, as indicated above, editorial in nature. New claim 29 now depends from remaining claim 22 and since it is based on canceled claim 21 no new issue is presented.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative with any suggestions, comments or questions with a view towards a Notice of Allowance.

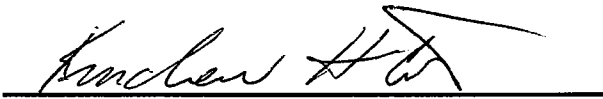
Applicants believe all claims now presented are consistent with the allowable subject matter described in the Office Action and are in condition to receive a Notice of Allowance. Such Notice is courteously solicited.

Applicants hereby request that any concurrent or future reply submitted by Applicants to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified patent application requiring an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for its timely submission be treated as incorporating therein a request for an extension of time for the appropriate length of time. In addition, to the extent necessary during prosecution of the

present application, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fee not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 7412/88137.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kendrew H. Colton", is written over a horizontal line.

Kendrew H. Colton

Registration No. 30,368

Tel: (202) 419-7000

Fax: (202) 419-7007

Please send official correspondence to:

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

1120 20th St., NW, Suite 750 South

Washington, DC 20036

Customer Number 42798